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NOTE TO UN ON FALKLANDS OCCUPATION ANNIVERSARY

PY040138 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2045 GMT 3 Jan 83

[Text] United Nations, 3 Jan (TELAM) -- Today Ambassador Carlos Muniz, permanent Argentine representative to the United Nations, submitted a note on the occasion of the 150th anniversary of the occupation of the Malvinas Islands by the United Kingdom to UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, from Peru, and to the President of the UN Security Council, Ambassador Atsu-Koffi Aega of Togo.

In referring to the event as a date in which a portion of Argentine territory, the Malvinas Islands, was occupied illegally and by force by the United Kingdom, Ambassador Muniz' letter states:

"The Argentine Republic, whose vital interests, dignity and rights are seriously affected by the continuing British colonial presence on the islands, has never tolerated this violation of its sovereignty and since 1833 has repeatedly demanded from the United Kingdom the restitution of the usurped territories. In view of the lack of diplomatic relations and direct communications between the Argentine and British Governments this demand and the upholding of Argentine rights over the jurisdictional and administrative actions of the British Government that have a bearing on the Malvinas, South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands are formally confirmed through this note. The Argentine Government especially wishes to protest once again and with great energy the British Government's measures, such as the maintenance of an arbitrary and illegal so-called protection zone around the Malvinas Islands and the militarization of the territory, which represent a source of great tension in the South Atlantic.

"As Your Excellency and the member countries of the United Nations are aware, the Argentine claim has also been put forward in international forums including the UN General Assembly, which has adopted four resolutions: 2,065 (XX), 3,160 (XXVIII), 31/49 and 37/9 and approved four consensuses (1966, 1967, 1969 and 1971) regarding the issue of the Malvinas Islands.

"On those occasions the General Assembly has urged the Argentine and British Governments to reach an agreement through negotiations for a solution to the dispute over sovereignty and has also pointed out that this solution is the only way to decolonize the islands.

"Throughout 17 years and based on the UN General Assembly resolutions Argentina made a series of important efforts aimed at achieving a negotiated solution. So far the British Government has not met these efforts with the necessary political will to solve the dispute over sovereignty.

"The long time that has elapsed without any progress made in fulfilling the UN General Assembly resolutions and the undesirable threat which the continuing anachronistic colonial situation in the Malvinas, South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands represents in the region, as was proven by the recent crisis in the South Atlantic, makes it necessary, today more than ever, to resume as soon as possible the negotiations aimed at finding a just and final solution to the sovereignty dispute. In this regard the Argentine Government considers that Resolution No 37/9 of the UN General Assembly, which in one of its basic points states that the maintenance of colonial situations is not in keeping with the United Nation's ideal of world peace, represents an adequate basis for this. As a consequence, the foreign relations and worship minister of my country, Juan Aguirre Lanari, in the note addressed to Your Excellency on 23 December 1982, voiced the Argentine Government's willingness to immediately fulfill the aforementioned resolution.

"This attitude is inspired by the aim of restoring the integrity of the national territory and it only reflects the Argentine people's unanimous desire that the decolonization and recovery of the Malvinas Islands become a continuing and priority objective."

The Argentine note then states: "As became evident during the 37th UN General Assembly the great majority of the member countries of the international community desire a just and final solution to the sovereignty dispute. This desire, in particular, is firmly supported by the Latin American countries, which have turned the restitution of the Malvinas Islands and effective Argentine sovereignty into a regional cause. It is also supported by the Nonaligned Movement, which has also voiced its valuable solidarity with that objective.

"In view of all these circumstances my government hopes that the British Government will also understand and agree to the need to comply with Resolution No 37/9 and that within this context it will be willing to grant Your Excellency its maximum cooperation in the fulfillment of the good offices mission entrusted to you by the General Assembly. Moreover, the Argentine Government is convinced that the international community will agree that 3 January 1983 represents an appropriate date to celebrate the beginning of a process genuinely aimed at allowing the fulfillment of the purposes and principles of the UN Charter in the South Atlantic and not one to celebrate the anniversary of a new colonial conquest in Latin American territory."

FOREIGN MINISTER'S FALKLANDS ANNIVERSARY MESSAGE

PY040212 Buenos Aires Argentina Televisora Color Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 4 Jan 83

[Undated message from Argentine Foreign Minister Juan Aguirre Lanari on 150th anniversary of British occupation of the Malvinas Islands; place not given -- recorded]

[Text] We have the duty of recalling a very regrettable episode in our national history. British military troops invaded and occupied the Malvinas Islands by force and expelled the original Argentine inhabitants 150 years ago. Our country has never accepted that violation of its territorial integrity and it has claimed with exemplary persistence its sovereign rights over the usurped territory ever since. This illegal occupation of the islands carried out by the United Kingdom did not represent, for international law or for the concert of nations, a legal means of acquiring a sovereignty which our country exercised fully and peacefully. Moreover, up to that date the Argentine sovereignty over the islands had not been questioned even by the United Kingdom itself which, in recognizing our country as a sovereign nation through a friendship, trade and navigation treaty in 1825, did not make any reservations whatsoever regarding its alleged rights over the Malvinas Islands or other adjacent territories.

Therefore, a part of our national territory -- a part of the Latin American continent -- continues to be occupied by a colonialist power. This illegal occupation may give the United Kingdom a temporary control over the territory, it may give it the administration and temporary use of its property, but it will never give it full and legitimate sovereignty, something which our country will persistently and indefatigably continue to demand at all international forums and at all levels.

To this end, with the support given by the international community through Resolution 37/9, recently adopted by the United Nations, we now hope that the United Kingdom will show that it is ready to honestly and frankly comply with the call for negotiations contained in that international resolution, and to desist from its current threatening attitude in the area, an attitude that constitutes a serious threat to the security of our country and endangers peace in the South Atlantic.

We cannot pass over this occasion without again expressing our deepest gratitude to the countries which supported us in the United Nations and most particularly to our brother countries in Latin America which jointly sponsored and embraced the draft resolution approved by the highest international forum. We also assure all of them of the unyielding Argentine will to continue struggling for the final recovery of the Malvinas Islands; this is a truly national objective that goes beyond any party disagreements and joins together the citizens of all sectors of the country. We promise our soldiers that they have not fought in vain and we promise our dead that new generations of Argentines will be born on the land where they fell, on some not too distant day.

PCA DEMANDS RECOVERY OF FALKLAND ISLANDS

PY032251 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 2015 GMT 31 Dec 82

[Text] Buenos Aires, 31 Dec (DYN) -- The political committee of the Communist Party of Argentina [PCA] today made "a call to its active members and to all the people" to "continue with the struggle for the recovery of Argentine sovereignty over the Malvinas and other islands in the South Atlantic." The PCA communique adds that the 150th anniversary of the "British usurpation" will be remembered during the first days of January 1983, and that "after the blood shed by our soldiers, we must make all political and diplomatic efforts based on popular mobilization to ensure the satisfaction of this just demand."

The communique adds that the "PCA expresses its indignation over the shameless demalvinization attempts which are being carried out by all economic and political sectors related to the U.S. and British monopolies."

FALKLANDS VETERANS GROUP HOLDS DEMONSTRATION

PY032302 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 3 Jan 83 p 5

[Text] (DYN) -- A group of veterans of the South Atlantic conflict organized a demonstration in Plaza de Mayo yesterday afternoon, singing the national anthem and the Malvinas Song as a symbolic gesture to affirm Argentina's rights over the islands. The march was organized by the Malvinas Veterans Centre to "repudiate the British takeover of the islands 150 years ago and to mark the ninth month since the first Argentine troops landed on the islands." The veterans shouted in front of Government House "death to Yankee and British imperialism" and other slogans such as "the military dictatorship will be over." Three police patrol cars drove slowly around the plaza but did not interfere with the demonstration. Jorge Vazquez, president of the Veterans Centre, said that they had gathered at the plaza to "turn their backs to Government House" and protest "poor political and military management of the Malvinas war, the bad treatment the government is giving those who fought for the nation, and the current state of the country." After the march ended, the veterans dispersed in order.

MAGAZINE REVEALS USE OF SOVIET MISSILES

PY031915 Paris AFP in Spanish 1536 GMT 3 Jan 83

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 3 Jan (AFP) -- According to a report published today by the magazine AEROESPACIO, published by the Argentine Air Force, the Argentine forces that occupied the Malvinas Islands last year made use of Soviet anti-aircraft missiles. In a study on the missiles used by both parties during the South Atlantic conflict (from 2 April to 14 June 1982), the magazine confirmed that the Argentines used an unspecified number of the Soviet-made SAM-7 Strela missiles. AEROESPACIO did not specify how these missiles were obtained since they are not part of the regular supply of the armed forces.

LIBYA TO BUY LOCALLY-MADE ARMORED CARS

PY031430 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0900 GMT 3 Jan 83

[Text] Rio de Janeiro, 3 Jan (TELAM) -- In 1983, Libya will buy armored cars from Brazil worth $280 million, it was officially announced here. The units to be bought by Libya are the Cascavel model which have already had their baptism of fire as part of the arsenal of the Iraqi Army, which is at war with Iran.

This operation brought reassurance to circles connected with the arms industry -- the country's fourth largest -- inasmuch as it demonstrates that the IMF assistance to Brazil is not subject to any political conditions. The Libyan regime headed by Col Muammar al-Qadhdhafi is not viewed with sympathy by the Western powers, particularly by the United States, which considers it a menace in the Middle East. In the course of the negotiations it was revealed that the question of arms sales to Third World countries, which are Brazil's main customers, was brought up during the recent meeting of Presidents Figueiredo and Reagan. It is said that Figueiredo told Reagan that Brazil could not change this policy because the Brazilian arms industry was now among the 10th largest in the world and it was one of the country's main industries.

This Brazilian industry manufactures mainly aircraft and light armored cars. It has begun to manufacture air-to-ground missiles, however, that will be placed on the market in 2 years. In 1982, Brazilian arms exports were the third largest after coffee and sugar, earning more than $4 billion.

DELFIM NETTO EXPRESSES OPTIMISM FOR 1983

PY312059 Sao Paulo Radio Bandeirantes Network in Portuguese 1600 GMT 31 Dec 82

[Undated year-end message from Planning Minister Antonio Delfim Netto; date and place not given -- recorded]

[Text] I appreciate very much the opportunity given to me by Radio Bandeirantes to talk to those present here. We are now experiencing a very difficult situation. We have many problems. Brazil is no exception in this situation. There is only one way to solve these problems: work. If we continue working we are going to overcome all these difficulties.

You, ladies and gentlemen, can rest assured that 1983 will not be worse than 1982. The year 1983 will be worse only for those who died in 1982. Those who are still alive will live through 1983 the same way they lived through 1982. And I am sure 1983 will be even better. Our difficulties will diminish and our work will proceed in the same direction, and I hope that you, ladies and gentlemen, will continue having confidence in the government.

There are no miracles, no ideological tricks that can eliminate all the difficulties we must face. These difficulties may be great, but we are going to overcome them, and in the end, Brazil will in fact become a developed and beautiful country. Thank you very much.

FOREIGN MINISTER TO ASIA, AFRICA LATE FEBRUARY

PY302125 Santiago Diplomatic Information Service in Spanish 2255 GMT 29 Dec 82

[Text] The Foreign Ministry announced yesterday that Foreign Minister Rene Rojas Galdames will tour several Asian and African nations at the end of February 1983. The trip's official date is subject to the president's approval. According to reports, the foreign minister will carry out his trip in keeping with Chile's opening to ASEAN and its willingness to increase trade and cultural relations with other nations, which is one of the basic principles of Chile's foreign policy.

It was also reported that Foreign Minister Rojas Galdames will be the first Chilean foreign minister to visit Indonesia, Thailand, Singapore and Egypt. While in these countries, Rojas Galdames will sign cultural, economic and scientific agreements, and will hold meetings with various local authorities.

Yesterday, Minister Rojas Galdames received at the Red Room of the Foreign Ministry Ambassadors Sirachai Phuthiphat of Thailand; 'Izzat Salah of Egypt, and Aung Ide Anak Agung Gde said goodbye to Foreign Minister Rojas Galdames upon conclusion of his diplomatic mission in Chile. The three ambassadors reiterated the official invitations to Rojas Galdames for him to visit their countries next February. At the end of the meeting, the three diplomats stressed that diplomatic relations were good.

POLITICAL LEADERS SEEK NATIONAL CONSENSUS

PY301523 Paris AFP in Spanish 2135 GMT 29 Dec 82

[Text] Santiago, 29 Dec (AFP) -- It was learned today from authorized sources that Chilean politicians and former congressmen whose ideas had not meshed in the past, have intensified their meetings during the past few days seeking a national consensus.

Despite the political recess imposed 9 years ago by the government of Gen Augusto Pinochet, representatives of the National Party (rightist), the Christian Democratic Party (centrist), the Social Democratic Party and the Popular Socialist Party (moderate), are participating in talks to develop the movement known as the Plan for the Development of a National Consensus, Prodena.

In Santiago, 82 members of the Christian Democratic Party who had been senators and deputies held a meeting chaired by the leader of the group, Gabriel Valdes, to discuss their role within Prodena, whose objective is to lead Chileans toward true democratic institutionalization, they stated. At the same time, former congressmen of the National Party have held meetings during the past 2 weeks in Santiago and Temuco, 690 km to the south of Santiago, with the purpose of joining the new opposition movement, the newspaper EL DIARIO reported.

The existence of Prodena was learned in November 1982, but so far there has been no reaction in government circles.

'MANY' GROUPS DENOUNCE INTENSIFIED REPRESSION

PA011512 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 31 Dec 82

[Text] Many Chilean people's organizations have denounced the intensified repression by the Gen Augusto Pinochet regime, which on Wednesday arrested 1,600 people in a huge police operation in working class neighborhoods.

Denunciations were made in Santiago by the Committee for Defense of the People's Rights, the Coordinating Board of Groups of Residents, the Groups of Relatives of Political Prisoners and the Union of Democratic Students, among others. The organizations indicated that the objective of repressive police actions is to frighten the workers and prevent expressions of discontent over Chile's serious economic situation.

Meanwhile, in Santiago, relatives of Chilean exiles said that the disbanding of the official group appointed by the regime to study the possible return of the exiles is an act of cruelty. The commission was dissolved Wednesday on orders of General Pinochet after it authorized the return of only 125 out of the hundreds of thousands of exiles.

HAVANA CITES 2-YEAR SENTENCE FOR TEACHERS

PA292003 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 29 Dec 82

[Text] A former member of the military police and two Chilean teachers have been sentenced to 2 years' confinement in a desolate part of northern Chile, charged with having alleged links with the outlawed Chilean Communist Party. The prisoners were identified as (Alfredo Iriarte) and (Hector Malatragna), both professors, and former policemen (Luis Portillo), who had been in prison since 1981 on the charge of violating the arms control law.

Other reports indicated that labor leaders Manuel Bustos and Hector Cuevas and business leader (Carlos Todles), recently expelled from Chile, sent a message protesting the unjust sentence imposed on their countrymen.

MEXICAN WEEKLY REPORTS ON CLANDESTINE RADIO

PY301340 Paris AFP in Spanish 2123 GMT 29 Dec 82

[Text] Mexico, 29 Dec (AFP) -- In remarks published by the Mexican weekly PROCESO, the director of a clandestine radio station has stated that a clandestine Radio Liberacion has been functioning in Chile since the middle of 1981. This clandestine radio is funded by that part of society that supports the forces struggling against the dictatorship and has the growing support of the people.

The director explained that this radio station operates by interfering with national television channels in different zones of the Chilean capital on a strictly clandestine basis, with the support of the people, through tactical surprise to avoid repression.

The main objective is to break the ideological and information siege imposed by the dictatorship through its absolute control over the communications media. The resistance's policies are brandished and broadcast over the radio, and the people are urged to fight against the dictatorship, the director, who did not want to reveal his name, stated.

He said that unlike clandestine radios in other countries, the fact that we operate in territories occupied by the enemy forces us to work with highly mobile equipment, and this involves limitations as far as power is concerned.

The brigades that operate the equipment to make the interference are called the Arcadia Flores brigade in honor of a member of the team, now dead, who in 1980 transmitted a revolutionary message over Radio Portales.

PROMOTION LIST ISSUED FOR ARMED FORCES OFFICERS

FY031729 Asuncion HOY in Spanish 3 Jan 83 p 8

[Excerpt] The decrees which promoted several armed forces' active duty and reserve officers were recently released. It is hereby reported that Col Francisco Ruiz Diaz was promoted to brigadier general. Here is the complete list of the recently promoted officers:

The president of the Republic of Paraguay decrees:

Article 1. As a result of his meeting with corresponding requirements, Col Francisco Ruiz Diaz is hereby promoted to the next highest rank as of 31 December 1982, in keeping with the resolution approved by the Armed Forces' Promotions Board during its 15 December 1982 session.

Signed: Alfredo Stroessner
Marcial Samaniego
Col Maximo I. Zaracho
Personnel Director

The president of the Republic of Paraguay decrees:

Article 1. As a result of their meeting the corresponding requirements, the following active duty and reserve officers of the army, navy and air force are hereby promoted to the next highest rank as of 31 December 1982, in keeping with the resolution approved by the Armed Forces' Promotions Board during its 15 December 1982 session:

I) Army and Air Force

A) Active Duty

1. Lt Col Federico Magno Candia Flores
2. Lt Col Sinesio Adolfo Gimenez Gimenez
3. Lt Col Pedro Goncepcion de la Cruz Ocampos
4. Lt Col Americo Ramon Osorio Martinez
5. Lt Col Estanislao Lesme Gimenez
6. Lt Col Leoncio Derlis Rojas Molinas
7. Lt Col Fernando Bejarano Mario
8. Lt Col Vicente Evelio Fretes Mora
9. Lt Col Francisco Aristides Talavera Mosqueda
10. Lt Col Frustuoso Emilce Mendoza Vega
11. Lt Col Gumercindo Olmedo Alvarenga
12. Lt Col Andres Salvador Arriola Socol
13. Lt Col Victor Indalecio Ruiz Diaz Villagra
14. Lt Col Alberto Poisson Ferreira
15. Lt Col Emilio Alberto Carrillo Vera
16. Lt Col Jose Cespedes Zara
17. Lt Col Dionisio Cabello Amarilla
18. Lt Col Wenceslao Adorno Vera
19. Lt Col Carlos Luis Ramon Gonzalez
20. Lt Col Martin Enrique Palacios Fernandez
21. Lt Col Rodolfo Davalos Cheno
22. Lt Col Adalberto Fleitas Martinez
23. Lt Col Osvaldo Cruz Acevedo Gamon
24. Lt Col Arnaldo Narciso Ferrari Gonzalez
25. Lt Col Silvio Asterio Estigarribia
26. Lt Col Jose Felix Ramon Pavon Gonzalez
27. Lt Col Oscar Arcadio Saucedo Rojas
28. Lt Col Francisco Luis Rodriguez Gonzalez

29. Lt Col Oscar Sebastian Monges Ocampos
30. Lt Col Elias Halaburda Martyniuk
31. Lt Col Eliseo Monges Samudio
32. Lt Col Anibal Valentin Schoeder Russo
33. Lt Col Mariano Gonzalez Caceres
34. Lt Col Jorgelino Santacruz Feliu
35. Lt Col Martires Galvan Cespedes
36. Lt Col Juan Simon Paredes Bareiro

B) Reserve

1. Infantry Lt Col Aureliano Quintero
2. Artillery Lt Col Gregorio Presentado
3. Artillery Lt Col Panfilo Alvarez
4. Infantry Lt Col Manuel Oviedo Martinez
5. Infantry Lt Col Carlos Arsenio Zarza Mancuello
6. Infantry Lt Col Virgilio Silveira
7. Infantry Lt Col Valentin Escobar Rolon
8. Cavalry Lt Col Bartolome Muller Caceres

Quartermaster Corps

A) Active Duty

1. Lt Col Juan Angel Gonzalez Avila
2. Lt Col Adolfo Bogado Rodriguez
3. Lt Col Ignacio Clodomiro Caceres Martinez
4. Lt Col Manuel Benito Miranda Fernandez

Medical Service Corps

A) Active Duty

1. Lt Col Mario Manuel Lenguaza Regis
2. Lt Col Milciades Marecos Martinez
3. Lt Col Dario Nelson Recalde Sosa
4. Lt Col Alejandro Cacavelos Artigas

B) Reserve

1. Lt Col Miguel Angel Barreiro Maffiodo

Veterinary Corps

A) Reserve

1. Lt Col Dr Albina Concepcion Romero Sole

Military Justice

A) Active Duty

1. Lt Col Alejandro Davalos Flores

II) Navy

A) Active Duty

1. Commander Carlos Guillermo Lopez Moreira
2. Commander Feliciano Villamayor Vera
3. Commander Oscar Ramon Gonzalez Guerrero
4. Commander Luis Humberto da Ponte Perez

Mechanics Unit A) Active Duty

1. Commander Miguel Erasmo Barrios Antonelli
2. Commander Enrique Narciso Velastiqui Rolon

Quartermaster Service A) Active Duty

1. Commander Andres Ronzewsky Maziuk

Medical Service Corps A) Active Duty

1. Commander Jose Luis Delgadillo Echague
2. Commander Nestor Severiano Sanchez Insfran
3. Commander Victor Rene Oviedo Zaracho

This is a duplicate of the original document.

Signed: Alfredo Stroessner
Marcial Samaniego
Col Maximo Zaracho
Personnel Director

GOVERNMENT DECREES ESTABLISH POLICE PROMOTIONS

PY032122 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 3 Jan 83 p 14

[Excerpt] The executive branch has released the decrees whereby several police officers were promoted to the next highest rank as of 31 December 1982. The rules concerning the promotion of police officers, chiefs and noncommissioned officers have also been released.

Decree No 37,184

Promotions to police commissioner [comisarios generales de orden publico]

The following deputy police commissioners [comisarios principales de orden publico] are hereby promoted to police commissioner: Diogenes Gonzalez, Humberto Gonzalez Ferreira, Pedro Oriber Riviero, Elvio Gonzalez Vergara, Sergio Rodriguez Vera, Antonio Emilio Candia Aguero and Ruben Dario Juan Fretes Cubilla.

Promotions to deputy police commissioner [comisarios principales de orden publico]

The following police inspectors [comisarios mayores] are hereby promoted to deputy police commissioner; Dalmacio Ramon Marengo Coronel, Juan Heriberto Vera Gromeck, Gerardo Vidal Gimenez Quintana, Bienvenido Espinola Mendez, Ruben Porfirio Rios Salinas, Adolfino Peralta, Catalino Ruben Kropf Alonso and Benito Arevalos Acosta

Promotions to investigations deputy police commissioner [comisario principal de investigaciones]

Police Inspector [comisario mayor] Nicolas Zayas is hereby promoted to investigation deputy police commissioner.

PLR YEAR-END MESSAGE CALLS FOR NATIONAL UNITY

PY292316 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 29 Dec 82 p 14

[Text] In an end of the year message, the Radical Liberal Party [PLR] states that "it is of the utmost importance to achieve the unification of all democratic currents and forces in a patriotic program for national salvation in order to prepare the Paraguayan people for the final battle in the struggle for a free, pluralistic and democratic society, which must result in a state, a government and a body of laws for the permanent defense of its inalienable rights."

The document, signed by Dr Enzo A. Doldan and Emilio Forestieri, PLR president and secretary general respectively, also states that "we are at the end of another year which has been marked by an alarming and critical economic situation. A budget which shows a deficit as a result of unproductive spending has given rise to a change in economic growth resulting in a dangerous recession of which a small privileged sector has shamelessly taken advantage. Likewise, the lack of consistent development plans and of appropriate government guidance in that area have put the stability of local productive forces in jeopardy, thus hindering the consolidation of national investment."

"Despite the fact that the country is in the middle of an electoral process, the rights of opposition parties are subject to all kinds of restrictions. All actions by citizens are under close control, as in a typical police state. The detention of young PLR members on the evening of 24 December with neither justification nor public explanation from those responsible is proof that political persecution will persist sine die. In Paraguay today, detentions on political grounds, exile and confinement persist without any chance to exercise the right of defense. Those flagrant irregularities must be halted as soon as possible in order to guarantee a really civilized coexistence," the document adds.

"The working class is still bearing the burden of low salaries and the lack of the right to organize free unions without any government influence and the right to suitably defend its legitimate interests. The growing and continued impoverishment of peasants has become a dramatic and daily reality for that sector of the population."

In conclusion, the document states that "the PLR seriously and responsibly submits its opinions and viewpoints for the consideration of citizens, reiterates its best wishes for our people and expresses its unyielding faith in a free and prosperous future."

PRESIDENT BELAUNDE SWEARS IN NEW CABINET

PY032029 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1835 GMT 3 Jan 83

[Excerpts] Lima, 3 Jan (LATIN-REUTER) -- President Fernando Belaunde today completely overcame the most serious ministerial crisis in his 30 months of government on swearing in his new cabinet made up of 16 ministers.

The new cabinet, which will be headed by former Peruvian Ambassador to Washington Fernando Schwalb, includes nine new ministers, while seven were confirmed in their posts. Schwalb will replace Manuel Ulloa, and will also hold the post of foreign minister, replacing Javier Arias Stella who resigned. Ulloa will be replaced at the Economy and Finance Ministry by banker Carlos Rodriguez Pastor, who was vice president of the Wells Fargo Bank of California at the time of his designation.

Belaunde replaced the ministers in charge of defense by military officers on active duty, arguing yesterday that the current political situation requires the service of people on active duty. This was the reason for the change.

Schwalb was the first to be sworn in. He was followed by War Minister Gen Oscar Brush Noel, Navy Minister Vice Adm Jorge du Bois and by Aeronautics Minister Lt Gen Herman Boluarte, all of them commanders in chief of their respective branches. Economy Minister Rodriguez Pastor was sworn in afterwards, followed by Interior Minister Fernando Rincon, Fisheries Minister Luis Percovich, Transport and Communications Minister Carlos Pestana and Agriculture Minister Mirko Cuculiza.

The following ministers were confirmed in their posts: Labor Minister Alfonso Grados; Housing Minister Javier Velarde; Health Minister Juan Franco; Education Minister Jose Benavides; Mines and Energy Minister Fernando Montero; Industry, Integration and Tourism Minister Gonzalo de la Puente; and Justice Minister Armando Buendia.

This is the first time that Belaunde has renewed his cabinet. In the 2 and 1/2 years of his management, Belaunde had only made five changes.

CONTINUED REPORTAGE ON SHINING PATH ACTIONS

Dynamites State Buildings

PY031649 Paris AFP in Spanish 0101 GMT 1 Jan 83

[Text] Lima, 31 Dec (AFP) -- Harassed by the armed forces and the police in Ayacucho Department, the Shining Path organization has shifted its activities to the Canete zone, on the coast 150 kilometers south of Lima, where state buildings were dynamited. The explosions shook two state banks and a police building in the city of Canete, as well as a police post and other sites in the municipality of the nearby town of imperial. The explosions damaged the buildings but no one was injured. In that primarily agricultural region, south of Lima, no terrorist attempts have taken place since August when a bank and the city council building were bombed.

In the meantime, unofficial reports from Ayacucho, 575 kilometers southeast of Lima, say that there have been clashes between military and Shining Path forces. No details on these clashes are available but they may have occurred in the provinces of Cangallo and Victor Fajardo, to the South of the city of Ayacucho.

Carries Out Summary Executions

PY032155 Paris AFP in Spanish 1659 GMT 3 Jan 83

[Text] Lima, 3 Jan (AFP) -- It was disclosed in this capital today that the members of the Peruvian terrorist group Shining Path have defied the armed forces by carrying out summary executions in Ayacucho Department and a province in Huancavelica, southeast of Lima.

In the meantime, the political-military command established in the city of Ayacucho, headed by Gen Clemente Noel Moran, has asked the inhabitants to hand over all the arms and explosives they may possess while the troops patrol and carry out control operations.

On Saturday evening 11 terrorists executed Victor Raul Tapahuasco, Ayacucho deputy mayor, at Acos Vinchos after giving him a people's trial. At the same time another Shining Path group in the town of Marcas, in Huancavelica Department, brought Mayor Gumercindo Marquez to trial and sentenced him to 55 strokes on the backside. Enrique Medrano, governor of the same place, was also brought to trial and sentenced to being paraded around the town after having his head shaved, being tied up and tarred and feathered.

It was learned that the command established in the emergency zone has ordered the inhabitants to hand over to the police all explosives, firearms and ammunition they may have and that a receipt will be issued. The police have disclosed that whoever does not comply with this order will be arrested and have proceedings brought against them. It was also pointed out that nobody will be able to use the excuse of not knowing about this order.

It was learned yesterday that three policemen who had been wounded in San Francisco, a district of Ayacucho Department, during a raid carried out by terrorists with Molotov cocktails were brought to this capital. After the raid the terrorists fled.

Details of Deputy Mayor's Execution

PY031220 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0040 GMT 3 Jan 83

[Text] Lima, 2 Jan (TELAM) -- Terrorist commandos killed Ayacucho Deputy Mayor Victor Raul Tapahuasco. This was reported today by the police of this city, located 570 kilometers south of the capital. The 39-year old official was given a people's trial by the terrorists and then he was executed in front of his wife and children, the police communique reported. The late Tapahuasco was acting deputy mayor, replacing Jorge Jauregui Mejia who was wounded in a terrorist attack some time ago. Mejia is currently recovering at a hospital in Lima.

DE LA MADRID REORGANIZES SECRETARIATS

FL040225 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2134 GMT 3 Jan 83

[Text] Mexico City, 3 Jan (NOTIMEX) -- The reform to the Basic Federal Public Administration Law sent to the Congress by President Miguel de la Madrid modified the function of eight state secretariats and created the Comptroller of the Federation, which will begin functioning this month.

The presidential initiative, approved during the first regular sessions of the 52d Legislature, established the powers of the Secretariats of Finance and Public Credit, Health and Assistance, Communications and Transport and Government. The Secretariats of Human Settlements [and Public Works], Patrimony and Industrial Development, and Commerce were modified and their titles were changed.

The Comptroller General of the Federation will now be responsible for systemizing control and supervision based on the instruments of planning, programming and budget. This new office, having the rank of secretariat, will supervise and evaluate government activities to give greater clarity to the administration and safe-keeping of income, property funds and federal securities and ensure efficient government spending.

The Secretariat of Programming and Budget, established during the Jose Lopez Portillo administration, will be the main office [organo rector] for national development planning and for the modernization of public administration. In this last responsibility, the secretariat has been given authority for the management of the federal government's human resources in order to establish a Government Career Service.

The Secretariat of Finance and Public Credit [SHCP] has now been given greater power to forecast and calculate income with the objective of bringing soundness to government finances. The SHCP will plan, evaluate and supervise the national banking system.

The Secretariat of Commerce and Industrial Development [SCFI] will promote foreign trade and strengthen the instruments of economic policy available to the state to promote industrial development. The SCFI will also keep its previous function of supervising and establishing the prices of national and imported goods.

The Secretariat of Energy, Mines and Semistate Industry will manage the national subterranean wealth and will use the state's basic and strategic industry to rearrange development.

The Secretariat of Urban Development and Ecology will be responsible for policies related to environommental improvement and conservation of forestry resources and wildlife.

These new measures put into place a program to improve government administration of the semistate industry. Among the more notable of the actions taken is the establishment of joint productivity committees, made up of representatives from the administration and trade unions.

BRIEFS

MEXICAN TRADE BALANCE -- Mexico City, 3 Jan (NOTIMEX) -- The Commerce Secretariat has reported that the country's trade balance until November 1982 showed a surplus of $4.983 billion. Imports reached $13.866 billion and exports $18 billion [figures as received]. [Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1601 GMT 3 Jan 83 FL]

SUPPORT FOR 'FREEDOM CALL' MANEUVERS URGED

PA031931 Panama MATUTINO in Spanish 3 Jan 83 p 8-A

["Let the People Judge" column by Ricardo Lince: "Freedom Call"]

[text] Freedom Call is a military exercise that U.S. and Panamanian military forces have been carrying out annually for the last several years in connection with the defense of the Panama Canal against an attack from outside the continent.

In view of its importance and its objective, the Panamanian people should support the exercise, because the defense of their territory, including the canal, is involved. That is why it is so important for the joint command for military operations in the canal area to start releasing information on these military maneuvers, since our people are aware of their international responsibilities and their nationalist objectives and respect those who died on 9 January. The country's nationalism has increased, as has its respect for its obligations and its acceptance of the challenge posed by the future.

According to reports received by the newspapers, the military exercise promises to be of a magnitude unprecedented in the region and will involve the participation of military forces from most of the countries on our continent.

Military operations of such proportions should involve parallel civil defense activities encompassing whatever aid and support the participating countries can provide to protect endangered national interests. A long-standing rule in military science is that armies should receive support from the civilian population in response to their defense of just causes.

In the case of Panama and of the Freedom Call operation, support and sympathy should be extended for struggles that are waged to defend democracy, to help to improve our standard of living and to achieve the respectful and effective presence of our canal partner in our economic and popular sectors. For Panamanians, this is the real freedom call. The other is a simple military maneuver that will be reported by the newspapers and forgotten.

RAILROAD EVALUATING COMMITTEE SUBMITS REPORT

PA010234 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2300 GMT 30 Dec 82

[Text] It is indispensable to invest a minimum of 13.5 million balboas in the reconstruction of locomotives and tracks for the transisthmian railroad to operate without loss or state subsidies. This is the conclusion of an evaluating committee that made a complete study of the Panama railroad operation following instructions issued by the president of the republic, according to Engineer Roberto Saconge, administrator of the railroad. The investment would cover the reconstruction of three 29-year-old locomotives at a cost of 2.2 million balboas, and the reconstruction of the tracks at a cost of approximately 11.3 million balboas.

According to official reports, the tracks did not receive preventive maintenance for at least 10 years prior to the Torrijos-Carter treaty. The evaluating committee also believes that if the railroad is to make a profit it will be necessary to revise the train schedule, enforce the weight and volume regulations on the Transisthmian Highway, revise the rates in order to increase freight transportation and designate the railroad as the preferred carrier for all government freight.

It is recommended that all trains running between 0900 and 1200 be eliminated, because these carry few passengers and cause losses. This would save 1.5 million balboas per year.

It is also necessary to increase the freight volume, which has decreased considerably over the last few years. Statistics indicate that the railroad carried 229,000 tons of freight in 1974, 184,000 tons in 1978 and only 155,000 tons in 1981. Experts believe that this can be improved if the railroad is designated the preferred carrier for government freight, which is now carried by private transporters through concessions.

The operation of the railroad has increased in cost every year; and its lower income, for various reasons, has caused losses that the Panamanian state has been obliged to assume since the railroad reverted to Panama in 1979. The subsidy over the last 3 years has averaged 3 million balboas a year and will be more than 4 million balboas in 1983.

Since passenger transportation service must be continued as a Panamanian contractual obligation under the 1977 treaty, the national government has been saying that the United States should subsidize the losses of this service. This subsidy could be 4,000 balboas a day, for an approximate 1 million balboas a year. The subsidy should be paid by the U.S. Government because the passenger service must continue to guarantee transportation for canal workers. The alternative would be to increase fares, which would make the service even less competitive with bus transportation.

Other details of the railroad's problems were given by Administrator Rodolfo Savonge, who said: [Begin Savonge recording] Since the service complements canal activity, Panama must find ways to recover the cost of a service that has no demand among the Panamanian people. The railroad carries only approximately 15 percent of the freight that moves between Colon and Panama. It carries approximately 45,000 passengers a month, which is very low for a schedule of 10 trains a day. Passenger service is generally not profitable anywhere in the world, and political fares -- that is, directly or indirectly subsidized fares -- must be charged, since passenger service helps the country's social and economic development. It complements our structure and permits other activities to develop and produce. But passenger service is normally subsidized and should be, as it was subsidized through the Canal Commission in the railroad's passenger service. [sentence as heard] We received the railroad in a deplorable state, a situtation that is obvious when you look at the age of the equipment. A railroad has a high fixed cost, and an equipment replacement and installations improvement plan is necessary in day-to-day operations in order to continue operating. [end recording]

The situation is clear: The fate of the Panama railroad requires dynamic government action that will guarantee the continuity of the operation at the lowest possible loss, which the Panamanian Government has to assume. This is so because Article 5, paragraph 4, subparagraph E of the Torrijos-Carter treaty states that if Panama should decide that the operation of the railroad is no longer viable at the minimum service level agreed upon by the parties, the United States may assume the management and operation of the railroad.

COSTA RICA

GOVERNMENT SEIZES COPIES OF LEFTIST MAGAZINE

PA031923 Paris AFP in Spanish 1626 GMT 3 Jan 83

[Text] San Jose, 3 Jan (AFP) -- The Costa Rican Government, through the Postal Services Directorate, has prevented the circulation of APORTES magazine and confiscated 700 copies of the publication, which has been published here for the past 2 years by Christian leftists. This was charged today by the magazine's editors.

According to the editors, the magazine's December issue was subjected "to political censorship that has been previously unknown here," which seriously undermines the freedom that Costa Ricans have traditionally enjoyed.

The magazine's editors claim that, so far, they have received only verbal explanations of this measure from the Postal Services Directorate. According to the explanations, the magazine's distribution by mail will be suspended until the Public Security Agency (Intelligence) "determines whether or not the magazine's contents are detrimental to the government's image or to the security of the state."

This is the first case of this kind ever reported in Costa Rica, where the official publication of the Communist Party, for example, circulates freely through the mail.

EL SALVADOR

MAGANA NAMES TWO NEW MINISTERS, CONFIRMS OTHERS

PA040124 Paris AFP in Spanish 0047 GMT 4 Jan 83

[Text] San Salvador, 3 Jan (AFP) -- Salvadoran President Alvaro Magana today announced two cabinet changes. The change of foreign trade and health ministers has not altered the cabinet's political balance.

Magana appointed economist Federico Shonemberg of the extreme rightist Nationalist Republican Alliance, Arena, foreign trade minister. Mauricio Gutierrez, second vice president of the republic, who also belongs to Arena was appointed public health and social services minister.

Magana reappointed the rest of the cabinet which includes members of the Christian Democratic Party, the National Conciliation Party and independents like Defense Minister Gen Jose Guillermo Garcia. Now only confirmation by the Constituent Assembly is needed.

The cabinet appointments were anxiously awaited because the president's request that the ministers resign triggered a political crisis when Arena leaders rejected the president's request from the outset.

Maj Roberto d'Aubuisson, Arena's top leader and president of the Constituent Assembly, had asked that any minister who resigned be replaced by someone from the same party in order to maintain the balance of power in the cabinet.

Magana made several changes in the deputy ministers, eliminating the original system of appointing a minister of one party and a deputy minister of another party.

Increasing conflicts among the government's parties, especially among Arena and the Christian Democratic Party, rendered a continuation of the system impossible. Now members of the same party are appointed to head each ministry. Announcing the changes today, Presidency Minister Francisco Jose Guerrero said that the president obtained the cooperation of all parties in reaching the agreement," and that "he is fully satisfied" with the work of the ministers since he took office in April 1982.

COUNTERINSURGENCY OPERATION ENDS IN SAN VICENTE

PA032301 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 0000 GMT 3 Jan 83

[Text] This station learned today that the counterinsurgency operation underway for 6 consecutive days in various sectors of San Vicente Department and particularly in areas near the Chinchontepec volcano concluded yesterday.

According to military reports, several guerrilla camps were destroyed and an average quantity of weapons was seized in these operations that lasted 6 days and were supported by 1,000 armed forces troops including members of the Belloso and Atlacatl Battalions as well as special units of the 5th Brigade stationed in San Vicente. It was also reported that three guerrillas were captured during the operation; they will be turned over to the military courts. It was said that this was the first operation of 1983 and was also the last of 1982.

ARMY REPORTEDLY KILLS 35 REBELS IN CLASH

PA032310 San Salvador Radio Cadena Sonora in Spanish 1700 GMT 3 Jan 83

[Text] According to reports disclosed this morning, at least 35 guerrillas were killed on the Tecoluca-San Vicente road during a heavy clash with regular army troops. It was said that in addition to the 35 guerrillas killed, many rebels were wounded.

The clash occurred after a large group of guerrillas ambushed a truck carrying National Guard and civil defense troops of Tecoluca. After the ambush was reported, a contingent from the Training Center for Armed Forces Engineers [Centro de Instruccion de Ingenieros de la Fuerza Armada -- Ceiifa] went to help the ambushed troops and proceeded to thoroughly search the area. The contingent subsequently confirmed that the guerrillas had fled the site of the incident.

It was also reported that an officer and several guardsmen were killed in the clash but the exact number was not disclosed. The Armed Forces Press Committee has not yet issued a bulletin with a more detailed account of this incident.

HAVANA CITES SABOTAGE OF ELECTRICAL TOWERS

PA031852 Havana International Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 3 Jan 83

[Text] FMLN groups blew up 12 high tension towers in the last few hours, leaving six departments in the eastern part of the country without electricity. These actions were part of the Heroes and Martyrs of October 1979-1980 offensive, which has been successfully waged by the FMLN since 10 October 1982.

GUATEMALA

GUERRILLAS KILL SOLDIERS IN CONVOY AMBUSH

PA031858 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1655 GMT 3 Jan 83

[Text] Guatemala City, 3 Jan (ACAN-EFE) -- Fourteen soldiers were killed and 10 were wounded in the first guerrillas attacks in Guatemala in 1983, military sources indicated today.

Their report states that on 1 January, near the municipality of "El Palmar" in Quezaltenango Department, a military convoy was ambushed by a guerrilla group. Fourteen soldiers were killed and eight were wounded, including two officers. The sources added that four passers-by at the scene of the clash were also wounded, including an 8-year old girl.

The military sources also reported two other clashes in the departments of San Marcos and Puerto Barrios, to the west and north of the capital, respectively, in which two soldiers were wounded and guerrillas set fire to a farm.

Meanwhile, the Guatemalan police reported today that the bodies of three men were found inside a bus parked in the southern part of this capital; they had been shot to death. The police also reported that a man had been shot by a group of unknown elements while driving his automobile thrcugh the middle of this city.

NEW EDUCATION MINISTER, DEPUTY MINISTER SWORN IN

PA040400 Guatemala City Cadena de Emisoras Unidas in Spanish 0050 GMT 4 Jan 83

[Text] Education Minister Luis Merida and Deputy Education Minister Mario Llerena were removed from their posts by Gen Efrain Rios Montt's government. National Palace sources said that this indicates a change in the education policy of the military regime that thook over power on 23 March 1982.

At 1530, Giron Tanchez, secretary general of the presidency, swore in new Education Minister (Bernard Rolando Mendez Mora) and Deputy Minister Capt (Marco Antonio Ardon Aguilar).

National Palace sources said that tomorrow morning the new public health and labor ministers may be sworn in, but this information is not official. It was said that this afternoon the labor minister and deputy labor minister were at a meeting outside the National Palace and it was therefore impossible to contact them to confirm this rumor that has been heard frequently since late December.

Therefore, the only changes that took place today concerned the education minister and the deputy education minister. The resignations of the former ministers were accepted.

We repeat: The new education minister is (Bernard Rolando Mendez Mora) and the deputy minister is Capt (Marco Antonio Ardon Aguilar).

HONDURAS

'RADIO SIGNAL FROM NICARAGUA' BLOCKS NEWSCASTS

PA032014 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1901 GMT 3 Jan 83

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 3 Jan (ACAN-EFE) -- Executives from the two most important Honduran radio networks have reported that a radio signal from Nicaragua is interfering with their radio networks' news broadcasts.

According to the affected stations' executives, the interference began some 3 weeks ago and occurs only during the times of news broadcasts. Afterward, the interference ends and the broadcasts go on without interruption.

Local experts believe that the interfering signal is being produced by a 10-kw transmitter near Honduras' Pacific coast. The radio executives have complained that while this is happening to their newscasts, signals from Nicaraguan stations like Radio Sandino and La Voz de Nicaragua are received in the border area as if they were from local stations. Sources close to the Honduran radio media have said that a document urging the Honduran Government to help the stations that are being affected is being prepared.

MILITARY BEGINS AUSTERITY PLAN; NEW APPOINTMENTS

PA032330 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1937 GMT 3 Jan 83

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 3 Jan (ACAN-EFE) -- Today the Honduran Army began a military austerity plan with the creation of three infantry brigades, an artillery battalion and a military police corps as well as special and territorial forces.

Gen Gustavo Alvarez Martinez, commander in chief of the Honduran Armed Forces, pointed out that "1983 will be a difficult year; it will be a challenge to every sector of the country's institutional life and the military must contribute to the constitutional government's austerity plan."

The military chief explained that the best care must be given to the army's war equipment so that it will provide maximum benefits with the minimum wear and therefore protect Honduras' integrity and territorial sovereignty as well as the rights of the citizenry.

He added that the creation of the three infantry brigades and other independent units "follows the army's professionalism plan that will permit it quick and effective combat readiness, at any time and any place."

The 101st, 105th and 110th Infantry Brigades were created. They will be commanded by Col Humberto Regalado Hernandez, Col Roberto Martinez Avila and Col Danilo Ferrera Suazo, respectively. These brigades will have their headquarters in the northwestern, central and eastern sectors of Honduras. They will have their own logistic support.

During today's ceremony at a field at the Gen Francisco Morazan Military School, Col Oscar Armando Mejia Peralta, who will be the chief of the army's General Staff, received the command baton. This is a new position in the Honduran Armed Forces.

Lt Col Moises Munoz Gonzalez will command the territorial forces and Lt Col Roberto Nunez Montes will command the military police corps.

Maj Herber Pastor Munguia and Maj Ricardo Luque Portillo will head the 4th Artillery Battalion and the special forces, respectively.

Col Efrain Lisandro Gonzalez was appointed armed forces paymaster general and Col Marco Antonio Rosales Abella was appointed inspector general.

The reorganization of the armed forces involved changes in the wording of several articles of the republic's Constitution.

The decreed government austerity obliges the armed forces to work with the same budget it had 2 years ago, a figure close to the $50 million. However, U.S. military aid will be increased by $14 million this year, bringing the amount of aid to $44 million.

BRIEFS

ARMED FORCES PROMOTIONS -- According to several decrees issued by the National Congress on 23 November 1982, the following infantry lieutenant colonels have been promoted to colonel: Astor Guillermo Fiallos and Rafael Castro Arita. These same decrees note that Infantry Majors Alvaro Antonio Romero Salgado, Jose de Jesus Banegas Medina, Arnulfo Cantarero Lopez, Lazaro Melanio Avila Soleno, Luis Alfonso Valderramos Molina, Oscar Filander Armijo Ucles, Celan Meza Pineda, Luis Alonso Discua Elvir, Jose Oscar Flores and Ramon Rosa Martinez Dominguez have been promoted to infantry lieutenant colonel. Claudio Alfredo Lainez Coello, Reynaldo Andino Flores and Guillermo Paredes Hernandez were promoted to artillery lieutenant colonel. Aviation Majors Roberto Mendoza Garay, Luis Isidro Aguilar Godoy and Hector Castro Cabus were promoted to lieutenant colonel, as well. [San Pedro Sula TIEMPO in Spanish 21 Dec 82 pp 4, 29 PA]

NICARAGUA

JUNTA COORDINATOR DISCUSSES NONALIGNED MEETING

PA040430 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0300 GMT 4 Jan 83

[Text] In an interview published today on the front page of the Mexican newspaper EL NACIONAL, Commander of the Revolution Daniel Ortega Saavedra, coordinator of the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction, said that the solution to Central American problems must be political and not military and that this will be proposed at the upcoming meeting of the Coordinating Board of the Nonaligned Movement to be held in Nicaragua.

He said that Nicaragua will use a diplomatic offensive aimed at seeking the restoration of peace in Cemtral America. He noted that 49 countries have already confirmed their attendance at the nonaligned meeting to be held in Managua from 10 to 14 January.

Ortega Saavedra added that the presence of a large number of nonaligned countries is a good opportunity for Nicaragua to express its support for a new world economic order that would allow the underdeveloped nations to overcome the crisis and to cancel the many foreign debts that afflict them.

The Nicaraguan leader stated that during the meeting Nicaragua will urge the international public and international organizations to pressure President Reagan to change his rejection of any possibilities for dialogue and negotiation to end the Central American conflict.

ANTI-SANDINISTS KIDNAP 67 PEASANTS TO HONDURAS

PA022144 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2109 GMT 2 Jan 83

[Text] Managua, 2 Jan (ACAN-EFE) -- A group of approximately 40 anti-Sandinists kidnapped 67 Nicaraguan peasants in the "Siuse" region, on the border with Honduras, in the early morning hours of 1 January. According to Defense Ministry sources, the peasants were immediately taken to Honduran territory.

All those who were kidnapped were working in farm tasks at one of the state production units when their attackers caught them by surprise.

Another group of anti-Sandinists had kidnapped 12 peasants the previous week. According to the Nicaraguan authorities, those peasants were also taken to Honduras. Military spokesmen said that the details had already been turned over to the Foreign Ministry in order to draft an appropriate protest note to the Tegucigalpa government.

BULGARIAN DAILY INTERVIEWS RAUL CASTRO

AU0031744 Sofia NARODNA ARMIYA in Bulgarian 31 Dec 82 pp 1, 3

[Interview by unidentified member of the NARODNA ARMIYA editorialboard with Army Gen Raul Castro Ruz, minister of the FAR of the Republic of Cuba and Politburo member as well as second secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba Central Committee, on the occasion of the forthcoming Cuban national holiday -- place and date of interview not given]

[Text] The 24th anniversary of the victory of the Cuban revolution will soon be celebrated. Throughout the period following January 1959 the people of this country accomplished a great step forward in their historical development, freeing themselves from the yoke of imperialist America and creating their island of freedom.

The leadership of the Communist Party of Cuba is an important factor in the country's successes. Fraternal cooperation with and the support of the socialist countries, headed by the Soviet Union, which since the very first day following the victory are rendering great and selfless assistance to Cuba, is a guarantee for the comprehensive upsurge of the republic.

Cuba is taking a worthy place in the Nonaligned Movement. The consistent, peaceloving policy of this country and its active internationalism are the basic reasons for Cuba's great international prestige. On the occasion of the fraternal Cuban people's bright holiday, the Bulgarian people, the soldiers and commanders of the Bulgarian People's army, are wishing new successes to the Cuban people in building socialism, as well as in our common struggle for peace and security throughout the world.

On this occasion Army Gen Raul Castro Ruz, Politburo member and second secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba, as well as minister of the FAR of the Republic of Cuba, was kind enough to answer the questions of a representative of the NARODNA ARMIYA editorial board.

Question: Comrade army general, as we know, 2 December is the holiday of the FAR of the Republic of Cuba, the militant holiday of the Cuban socialist army, and on 1 January the national holiday of the country is celebrated. In this connection I would like to ask you to tell the readers of the daily NARODNA ARMIYA about the history of the Cuban FAR, about their traditions and about the spirit in which the soldiers and commanders are being educated, as well as about the most important tasks of the army at the present stage of development.

Answer: One year ago we celebrated the 25th anniversary of the landing of Granma and the day of the Cuban FAR, and recently we marked once more this remarkable anniversary, inspired by the same militant spirit in which a handful of men, headed by Fidel, marched to the final victory.

As early as before the attack on the Moncada Barracks and after that, many comrades selflessly and courageously perished in the unequal struggle, which began against the tyrants at that time. This was a battle which expanded in the mountains and fields until the final victory which we achieved on 1 January 1959. The Revolutionary Army was born and developed in this struggle and on 2 December 1956, 82 men participated in the landing of Granma and were persecuted by the enemy on sea and in the air. This is when the dreams of Jose Marti and of many other Cuban patriots began to be implemented through this action with the help of the strategy and tactics prescribed by Comrade Fidel.

The nationwide struggle accelerated the process of decay of the loathed dictatorial regime, which had placed itself entirely at the service of the United States and which until the last moment (until the panicky flight of dictator Batista and his main assistants) supported this regime by all means and particularly from the military point of view. It is difficult to recall those days and not to link these memories to the difficult and critical situation to which our brothers in Latin America and the Caribbean -- and especially those in El Salvador and Guatemala -- are now subjected as victims of the irresponsible policy, which has reached its climax of domination and aggressive spirit under the present Republican U.S. Administration, headed by Ronald Reagan, which is granting unlimited assistance to the genocidal regimes in El Salvador and Guatemala.

Neither the former nor the present American rulers seem to have learned the lessons of history, but sooner or later, the peoples in our hemisphere who have not yet liberated themselves from imperialist oppression will have their vengeance and will implement the dreams of Simon Bolivar, Jose Marti and of many other courageous patriots of the peoples from the Rio Bravo to Patagonia. They will achieve the unity and sovereignty of America, whose new struggle for true independence began with the victory of revolution in Cuba in January 1959.

In those first moments of joint triumph following the revolutionary victory, Comrade Fidel declared to the people that one stage of the struggle lies behind us, but it was by far not the most difficult one. The difficulties lie ahead. The 24 years that followed the victory of revolution demonstrated the correctness of the opinion adopted by the first leader of our revolutionary movement in those victorious January days.

Our FAR is now facing new and difficult struggles in the daily labor of the long years to come -- as part of the struggle against the aggression of American imperialism, in which they are marching side by side with their brothers from the Ministry of Interior. The victory of revolution in Cuba helped to establish a new kind of people's army -- a workers and peasants army which, as to its composition, is headed by officers of the same origins -- and to defend the working people's interests.

The people's army was constructed and trained along with the deep transformation of Cuban society. This was done in a real revolutionary spirit and in closest connection with the rich combat traditions which spring from the resistance against Spanish colonialism, and were inherited by generations of Cubans, who for more than 50 years conducted fierce battles against the pro-American regimes, which ruled the country during the period of the bourgeois republic.

Our inexperienced army intercepted the imperialist aggression at Playa Giron in April 1961. This was an action of counterrevolutionary gangs sponsored by the CIA. We dealt in a similar way with many hostile actions aimed against revolutionary Cuba. The constantly existing possibility of military aggression on the part of the United States forced our revolution, immediately after the first overt confrontations with the powerful northern neighbor, to allocate significant human and material resources to defend the victory achieved in 1959 and the people's successes. This would have been impossible with our own efforts alone and without the selfless assistance of the USSR -- the motherland of Lenin -- which from the very beginning offered its cooperation in developing and strengthening the FAR. This assistance continued for more than 20 years and is continuing also today.

Educated in the spirit of the richest traditions and examples of internationalism, the FAR also rendered its assistance in defending other revolutionary movements in friendly countries such as Angola and Ethiopia.

These countries voluntarily and straightforwardly approached Cuba and asked for its cooperation in order to stop, together with their young armies, the aggressions to which they were subjected. These aggressions included punitive actions conducted by neighboring countries in response to appeals by the United States. Such were the actions of the South African regime against Angola and of Somalia against Ethiopia.

Question: The relations of fraternal friendship and comprehensive cooperation that unite the Bulgarian and Cuban peoples are constantly strengthening in all areas of life. We would like to know your opinion of the development of cooperation between the Cuban and Bulgarian Armies.

Answer: There is a long and fruitful period of friendship and cooperation between our parties and governments, and between the peoples of Cuba and Bulgaria, as a result of which close and fraternal relations were established. Each and every year allows us to confirm with satisfaction that the indestructible relations of mutual sympathy, which unite us, are expanding and becoming still stronger. The relations between the Bulgarian People's Army and the FAR of Cuba are developing within the framework of these fraternal relations, and they are based on the unity of principles and goals. Our people always remember that during the time of great danger and difficulites, caused by the permanent hostile position of the United States, the Cuban revolution has always relied on the valuable assistance and combat solidarity of the Bulgarian party, government and people.

If we can speak of the common characteristics of the Bulgarian People's Army and the FAR of Cuba, then first of all there are the historic combat traditions of the two peoples and their revolutionary struggle against oppression and slavery caused by the Ottoman Empire in Bulgaria and the Spanish state in Cuba. Secondly there is the all-people struggle of the two countries for their final liberation during this century. This common characteristic had its expression in the military area, namely the partisan struggle, and in the area of tactics, namely, achieving the strategic goal of the taking of power by the people. In both countries these common characteristic marked the beginning of the creation of a new kind of Army -- a revolutionary and truly people's army.

The cooperation between the Bulgarian People's Army and the FAR of Cuba is developing fruitfully. An important reason for this is the exchange of delegations for imparting experience in forming, training and further developing the armies and their special skills. In this context I must say that the valuable experience accumulated by the Bulgarian People's Army during the 38 years since its founding was especially beneficial for improving our FAR. Other areas in which the two armies' cooperation serves the established friendly relations are the numerous visits of delegations of the Bulgarian People's Army and the FAR, and the sports meetings and competitions organized by the Sports Committee of the Fraternal Armies, which take place annually. There is no doubt that the supreme manifestation of the high degree of cooperation between the Bulgarian and the Cuban armies are the visits on the highest level, which have been taking place for more than 15 years. The February 1977 visit to Cuba of our dear friend Army Gen Dobri Dzhurov, who led a high-level delegation of the Bulgarian People's Army, is an important contribution to the indestructible friendship which connects our countries and military organizations. It confirmed once again the unity of opinion and our common interests, appropriate for two socialist countries led by the principles of Marxism-Leninism and proletarian internationalism, and joined in very close friendship with the USSR and its glorious armed forces.

Question: You have been a dear guest of our country many times and you are familiar with the successes of the Bulgarian people and its loyal defenders in constructing a developed socialist society. What would you like to wish the soldiers and commanders of the Bulgarian People's Army?

Answer: Whenever I was among the hospitable Bulgarian people, I enthusiastically witnessed Bulgaria's successes in various areas of social development and in implementing the plans outlined by its Communist Party. This contact also allowed us to correctly evaluate the high combat skill and mastery of the complex military equipment with which the Bulgarian People's Army is equipped, and the diligence with which the commanders, officers, soldiers, and party and youth organizations prepare themselves to implement the tasks set by the high command.

The Bulgarian People's Army and its leading cadres and soldiers are heirs to herioc combat traditions, and today it is on the level of the most modern armies of our time, capable of defending the achievements of socialism, guaranteeing the peaceful work of its people and implementing its international duty as an active member of the Warsaw Pact.

Recently the Bulgarian People's Army marked the 38th anniversary of its existence. It was entrusted with new and complex tasks by Bulgaria's party and government in a period charged with dangers for world peace because of the aggressive, adventurist and irresponsible policy of the present U.S. Administration. We would like to wish the officers and soldiers of the Bulgarian People's Army to defend and strengthen the firm combat spirit of their ancestors and the indestructible faith in the bright future of socialism and communism, to contribute further to reaching a truly peaceful climate and peaceful coexistence among peoples and to preserving the indestructible alliance with the fraternal countries and especially with the USSR, and to maintain their iron discipline and loyalty to the party and government. We would also like to wish them new and even greater successes in implementing the important tasks related to increasing the combat training and readiness of the units and the staffs.
Our constant slogan is: To strengthen and expand even further the friendly and fraternal relations between our peoples, parties and governments.

REPORTAGE ON ALMEIDA'S ACTIVITIES IN THE CONGO

Holds Talks With Nze

PA031713 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 3 Jan 83

[Text] Cuban and Congolese delegations led by Juan Almeida, member of the Communist Party of Cuba Politburo and vice president of the Cuban Council of State; and Pierre Nze, Congolese foreign minister and Congolese Labor Party Politburo member, began official talks in Brazzaville on bilateral relations and other issues of common interest.

Almeida expressed satisfaction with the excellent relations between Cuba and the Congo and happiness at sharing the 13th anniversary of their vanguard party with the Congolese Government and people.

In turn, Pierre Nze voiced happiness at the Cuban delegation's presence in the Congo and satisfaction with the two countries' relations, which, he noted, permit the people and Government of the Congo to make significant progress in effecting social changes.

On Sunday, Almeida placed a wreath at the mausoleum of deceased Congolese President Marien Ngouabi, located on one of the main avenues in Brazzaville, the Congolese capital.

Hails Relations at Luncheon

FL032300 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2102 GMT 3 Jan 83

[Text] Commander of the Revolution Juan Almeida Bosque praised the fruitful and friendly relations existing between Cuba and the Congo during a speech delivered in Brazzaville at a luncheon held in his honor. The member of our party Politburo and vice president of the Council of State, on behalf of the Cuban people, party and government, expressed his deep respect for the notable memory of Marien Ngouabi, who gave his life for a society of justice, progress and well-being in the Congo. Almeida said that relations between Cuba and the Congo go back to ancient times when Africans were taken to American soil, victims of the powerful slave-trading regimes and of the colonialists' unbounded ambition. From that time on, he asserted, Cuban native blood received the strong (?wisdom) of the sons of the African continent which went into making up the Cuban nationality.

We are happy to be among friends who offer us the sincere warmth of friendship, Almeida Bosque said. We are in a nation struggling to free itself from the economic yoke tying it to the negative fluctuations of the capitalist world, Almeida added.

Further on, Almeida said that the current world economic situation could not be more dramatic, as recession, inflation and unemployment become more acute while the deficit in the balance of payments increases in the vast majority of countries, particularly in underdeveloped countries, resulting in misery, hunger and disease. All of this, the Cuban leader stressed, demonstrates the urgent need to find effective solutions to the economic crisis and break down the barriers opposing development.

Almeida pointed out in his speech that another factor incompatible with the establishment of a new world economic order is the runaway arms race of the Yankee administration. Revolutionary forces feel a deep concern over the destabilizing and aggressive plans which imperialism has been waging against states whose positions affect its interests, the Cuban leader said.

Almeida added that the basic problem in Africa continues to be the urgent need to eradicate colonialism, racial discrimination and apartheid from the continent and particularly from Southern Africa. He asserted that the main fact which has permitted the perpetuation of colonialism and racism in Namibia and Southern Africa has been the military, technological and economic assistance of all kinds which imperialism provides to the Pretoria regime.

Juan Almeida said that Cuba was not an isolated event in the American Hemisphere because the revolutionary awakening continues to demonstrate itself throughout the region. Nicaragua and Grenada, the Cuban leader added, have taken the path of revolution and are defending their achievements in the face of attacks from imperialism and its lackeys and therefore should have the solidarity of all the peoples of the world.

Finally, Almeida said he appreciated the many and magnificent courtesies he received in the Congo and reaffirmed Cuba'a solidarity and brotherhood with the people, party and government of the People's Republic of the Congo.

Also speaking at the luncheon held in Brazzaville in Almeida's honor was Pierre Nze, member of the Congolese Labor Party Politburo and Congolese foreign minister, who hosted the luncheon.

CANO BLANCO INTERVIEWED BY RIZOSPASTIS

NC020701 Athens RIZOSPASTIS in Greek 1 Jan 83 p 5

["Text" of interview by Miguel Cano Blanco, member of the Central Committee Politburo of the Communist Party of Cuba, to RIZOSPASTIS correspondent Elevtheria Oikonomou, in Athens -- date not given]

[Text] Comrade Miguel Cano Blanco said: Our revolution took place 24 years ago. During these 24 years, U.S. imperialism, which has its base only 90 miles from our coast, has never stopped threatening our country for even one moment. It has used every method -- from the armed invasion in the Bay of Pigs to the attempted murder of Comrade Fidel Castro. It has supported the counterrevolutionary groups, which were ultimately obliterated by the Cuban people. It has waged biological war in our country aiming at destroying not only plantations and animals but also people. Five times it has provoked incidents on the perimeter of the U.S. base in Guantanamo. It violates Cuban airspace by systematically spying in it. In general, its policy toward us is one of continuous attacks and provocations. The imperialists, at the same time, are waging a slanderous anti-Cuban campaign with its mass information media. They are slandering and distorting the essence of the Cuban revolutionary process. The economic blockade resulted in our country losing $9 billion, not including the other dislocations caused in our economy. Our people adopted a series of measures in order to defend themselves from this attack. The Soviet Union's aid plays a definitive role toward this endeavor. Our armed forces are armed with modern military weapons. Our army has a great number of reserves.

Beyond this and in order to face the last U.S. anti-Cuban campaign, which began during Carter's regime, our party and government have decided to strengthen our country's defenses. Last year we organized the Territorial Militia Forces. These forces were joined by 500,000 new strugglers, men and women. All of them have weapons and ammunition and are being trained by army officers. A hundred thousand other Cubans have asked to join the Territorial Militia Forces, but we cannot accommodate them there because there are no more weapons.

Washington is threatening that it will set up a strong radio station, of the "Free Europe" type, with which it can transmit its slander and its anti-Cuban innuendos even inside our country. We are also ready to face this new attack.

Question: From what I know, Cuba has warned the United States that if it does this, Cuba will reply in kind....

Blanco: We have warned that we are ready to respond. I do not want to give more details. However, be certain that this will cost them dearly.

The Cuban people are hard-working people. Despite the limitations that the world economic crisis has imposed on them, they work in all sectors -- economic, social and the furthering of the revolution's development. Imperialist threats do not at all influence the people's will to promote the revolution in all sectors nor do they impede their work in this direction. Our people are unperturbed and they have confidence in their strength, they have confidence in international solidarity. They are also ready to defend their revolution or die for it. This is how all in Cuba feel -- both women and men, from the Pioneers to the elderly. The 24 years of revolution have matured our people. We have gone through the Bay of Pigs attack, the "October Crisis," and we have faced so far all the campaigns against us.

This is the present situation in our country. The Cuban people, with aid from the Soviet Union and with their own power and efforts are building factories, producing sugar, promoting mining industries, and developing an agrarian economy. Modern thoroughfares extend from one end of the country to the other. We have established a new telecommunication network, and we work very hard. The 2d Cuban Communist Party congress called on the people to give everything possible toward production and defense. Its slogan was: "Let us prepare for defense, and work for victory."

Question: How do you view U.S. movements in the Caribbean and developments in that area?

Blanco: The United States has worked out a plan for all of Central America and the Caribbean that Cuba and the other countries of the area have denounced. This plan was created after the victory of the revolution in Nicaragua and Grenada and its aim is to destabilize these two regimes and increase tensions in the corresponding points of Central America and the Caribbean.

On the other hand, the evolution of the revolutionary guerrilla movements in El Salvador and Guatemala constitutes a challenge for the United States which at the same time acts in the direction of foiling the victory of these movements.

The entire situation in the area is very tense and -- I would say -- very dangerous. Peace itself is in danger and there may be repercussions on an international level.

Imperialism's plans in Central America and the Caribbean rely on the puppet regimes of certain countries in the area like Honduras, El Salvador and Guatemala. Yankees train Somoza's counterrevolutionaries who use Honduran territory as a base for their daily attacks against the people and the revolution of Nicaragua. At the same time U.S. military experts participate in attacks against the revolutionaries who are heroically fighting in El Salvador and Guatemala.

Question: One of Washington's pretexts for these attacks is that Cuba "fosters disorder" in the area. What do you have to say on this?

Blanco: Recently replying to the imperialist allegation that Cuba sends arms to the area's revolutionary movements, Comrade Fidel Castro stressed: They are wrong because if we had sent the arms they allege then both regimes -- in El Salvador and in Guatemala -- would have been defeated.

The United States considers us responsible for the victory of the revolution in Nicaragua and for the rise of the populist guerrilla movements in El Salvador and Guatemala. However, these revolutionary developments are nothing but the result of the heroism of the people of the above countries and a product of their rebelling against poverty, misery and oppression.

Question: On the basis of recent events in Latin America do you see any prospects for Cuba's return to the OAS?

Blanco: It has been many years since OAS deleted Cuba as a member. We did not want to go from the OAS. The decision was taken by a number of regimes that bowed to the U.S. will.

In any case, we succeeded in living without the OAS. Nobody in Cuba died because we were excluded from the OAS. However, times change. After the revolution in Nicaragua viewpoints inside the OAS have begun to change.

We are Americanists and we support the unity of all the American peoples. I believe that if some day there is a possibility for the establishment of an OAS without the United States possibly Cuba will be among its members. I repeat, without the United States.

Compared to Cuba's original total isolation some OAS member-states currently have significantly improved their relations with our country.

In addition, the Latin American countries have been convinced of the dangers they run following the British attack against the Malvinas (the Falkland Islands) -- an attack that was absolutely supported by the United States. This has helped many people to open their eyes. A Cuban proverb says: "When you see your neighbor's beard on fire, soak your own." There is no doubt that after the war in the Malvinas the erosion in relations between the United States and the Latin American countries has increased. The people are vigilant and are beginning to realize things. They are beginning to see clearly who their real enemy is and this is the most important thing.

BRIEFS

UN REPRESENTATIVES IN HAVANA -- The UN permanent representatives of Sri Lanka, Ignatius Benedict Foneska, and of Kuwait, Muhammad Abu al-Hasan -- who is also Kuwait's ambassador to Cuba -- have arrived in Havana for a visit. [Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1500 GMT 3 Jan 83 FL]

GRENADA

PRIME MINISTER BISHOP DELIVERS NEW YEAR MESSAGE

FL031435 Bridgetown CANA in English 1847 GMT 2 Jan 83

[Text] St Georges, Grenada, Jan 2, CANA -- The Grenada Government has declared 1983 "The Year of Political and Academic Education".

Prime Minister Maurice Bishop, making the announcement in a New Year's address, said that although the political consciousness, awareness and understanding of the Grenadian people had risen since his New Jewel Movement (NJM) took power in a 1979 coup, the fact remained that the present political and economic situation in the world demanded from all Grenadians greater clarity of understanding, sharper powers of analysis and a broader perspective. "Our people must develop in the new year a mental grasp of the true nature of the international capitalist crisis which is holding back the progress of our revolution, and the development of all poor countries in the world", he said.

"Our people must know the causes and origins of this crisis. They must see clearly the link between politics and economics, between imperialist exploitation and persistent poverty, and between the mad build-up of arms by imperialism and the economic crisis", he added.

Mr Bishop said political education would prepare workers in Grenada for the sacrifices and hard work required to construct a viable economy and to adequately defend the 1979 revolution.

Political education would also help in identifying from the ranks of workers the future leaders of the country, Mr Bishop said, and assist in preparing "the working class to assume its historic role of transforming Grenada from backwardness and dependency to genuine economic independence". In this regard, he stated that one of the major tasks which would occupy the country in the year would be that of organising more worker education sessions at the different workplaces, as well as in the various schools throughout the country.

On the question of academic education for Grenadians in the new year, the prime minister indicated that the main task for the nation in this area would be to push ahead with the adult literacy programme of the Centre for Popular Education (CPE). Mr Bishop stated that during the year thousands of workers in Grenada would have to be bought into the CPE programme, which started in 1979, because of what he called its fundamental relevance to the social, political and economic development of the masses.

He announced that adult literacy education certificates awarded by the CPE would be recognised throughout the country and as such would become "more of a critical asset in the new job opportunities that would be created". He stressed that adult education made possible through the CPE would be important not only for those persons seeking jobs, but also for those with jobs, as well as the elderly, and the poorest people in the country.

Mr Bishop said that in the Caribbean region last year thousands of workers were laid off by their employers because of reduced economic activities in a number of countries, particularly in the bauxite, tourism and sugar industries. He stated that in some cases while the commerce and industry sectors in those islands declined there was also outright bankruptcy in the private sector, as well as little or no growth in the national economies of the Caribbean states.

The prime minister said that in one neighbouring country which had been often pushed by "imperialism" as a model for the region the economy had declined by nearly 10 percent in the past two years.

BOLIVIA

SILES ZUAZO TO VISIT FRANCE 23 JANUARY

PY031658 Paris AFP in Spanish 1540 GMT 3 Jan 83

[Text] La Paz, 3 Jan (AFP) -- Bolivian President Hernan Siles Zuazo has accepted an invitation to visit Paris made by French President Francois Mitterrand, Bolivian Foreign Minister Mario Velarde Dorado reported today.

According to official information, President Siles Zuazo will be in Paris on 23 January.

During his visit on the occasion of the European presidents' meeting, Siles Zuazo will probably make some bilateral contacts, especially with President Mitterrand.

During Siles Zuazo's absence, Jaime Paz Zamora will again be the nation's acting president.

Siles Zuazo's trip to France will not prevent the announced trip of Vice President Paz Zamora to Europe where he will undertake intense negotiations to obtain financial resources for Bolivia's economic recovery program.

ECUADOR

STATE OF EMERGENCY IN TWO PROVINCES DUE TO FLOODS

PA301952 Quito Voz de Los Andes in Spanish 1130 GMT 30 Dec 82

[Excerpts] An extremely serious situation is being experienced in the Provinces of Guayas and Los Rios, where a state of emergency has been declared because of flooding. If we consider that the months of January through March are the ones with the heaviest rainfall, the country must brace itself to face an onslaught from mother nature. This would add new difficulties to those already being faced by the Ecuadorean people and government in the opinion of President Oswaldo Hurtado Larrea. President Hurtado made a 5-hour tour of the area affected by the heavy rains.

[Begin Hurtado recording] The government has been trying to take whatever steps are necessary to offset the serious consequences of the floods. To achieve this, many steps have already been taken in the areas of health, agriculture and public works and in restoring public services. [end recording]

President Hurtado said that the situation in the western Provinces of Guayas and Los Rios is extremely serious, and that the floods forced him to declare the state of emergency. The president, who visited the affected areas yesterday along with three cabinet ministers, said that the government is also considering extending the state of emergency to the Provinces of Esmeraldas, Manabi and El Oro.